

Day Nursery News

"Welcome back to a new term and a New Year. I hope that 2004 is a very happy, healthy, and successful year for you and your family."

....and a big *thank-you* from the staff and I for all your cards and generous gifts. Many of us are still trying to burn off the extra inches we gained from eating all that delicious chocolate and drinking all that wine!!

Thank You to Santa!

A fantastic time was had by all when Santa came to visit us during our Christmas party. He has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to all the children for being so well behaved and hopes that they all enjoyed the presents he brought to them on Christmas Day. He was especially thrilled by the looks on all the children's faces when he passed through the rooms.



Nursery Leavers



We said our goodbyes to five children at Christmas, all of whom are greatly missed in our pre-school. Our best wishes go to Sophie, James, Keali, Melissa and Gillian. I'm sure that those of you who know these children will join us in wishing them all a very happy and successful future.

Heidi was extremely busy during December gathering together all the children's development records and pieces of work for parents to take home. As you know Heidi

Marjorie and Louise complete the '**Dudley Early Years Profile**' for every child in the pre-school. This profile is an assessment record that reflects all the Early Learning Goals in the Foundation Stage Curriculum and is used by the majority of reception teachers in the borough. It's great to know that schools are using the information we provide, to the benefit the children.

Movers

It seems as though the children who have moved through to new rooms this term are settling in well, thanks to the nurturing and gentle encouragement of our very caring staff. Any initial tears were soon dried up and smiles of happiness were quickly discovered. Well done everyone.

A Special Announcement



We would like to extend a big welcome to the new addition to the Wiley family. Ben was born on 6th December 03 - a baby brother to Tom in our preschool. Congratulations to the proud parents Louise and Paul.

New families joining us

We extend a very special welcome to all our new babies, children and their families. Thank you for choosing us and I am happy to say that the children are all settling in well.

Welcome to New Staff

After Sarah Legg and Carly Hill left us in December - both of whom had been with us for over five years - we recruited for the baby room and organised a Job-Share



for the Kindergarten. Lisa Hackett (BTEC) joined us on 2nd January as our new Baby Room Supervisor. Lisa brought with her two years supervisory experience and working alongside Sarah

Grennan, Lisa is already proving to be a great asset to the nursery. Well done Lisa.



Sarah Weston and Beccy Marsh are working very well together to create a seamless and effective 'job-share' to manage the kindergarten



alongside Lauren Bache. Well done to you both.

Sarah Weston will continue to manage the Quality Assurance Scheme we are following called 'Growing Together' and is our new Health and Safety Representative. As 'Transitions Officer' Sarah also monitors how children are settling into their new rooms and how parents and children are being supported during any transition/settling-in phase. If you do have any concerns in this area please speak to either Sarah or myself and we will do all we can to help. Sarah has specific hours allocated to manage these separate roles.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all well in their new posts.

Staff Training

Many staff will be updating their certificate in FIRST AID, and specialised EPIPEN training. Kate Woods, Beccy Marsh and Lisa Hackett are now the nursery's Named First-Aiders and always oversee any accidents throughout the nursery.

Our dedicated staff take every opportunity to update their skills, by regularly attending courses on the latest techniques and developments in Childcare and Education. Various Courses have been arranged, including Health and Safety, Creative play, and Customer Care. Foundation Stage and 'Under 3's' training courses have also been booked for staff over the coming months.

Relief cover is always provided as necessary whenever staff attend training courses and the wealth of experiences, knowledge and confidence

being gleaned by staff is invaluable to the children.

News and Events

Whole Nursery Parent's Evening

with video and workshop for parents of under 3's

Monday 22nd March 6.00pm

Parents of all children are invited to a parents evening on Monday 22nd March starting at 6pm. The purpose of the evening is to review your children's individual progress and development and to find out more about what the children are experiencing at nursery. There will be a workshop for parents at 7pm where you will be invited to watch a short video and get some hands-on experience of some of the activities your children are enjoying at nursery.

Nearer the time an appointment slip will be given to you to indicate the best time for you to look through your child's individual work folder and development records, with your child's key carers.

Live Music

We are still managing to expose the children to live

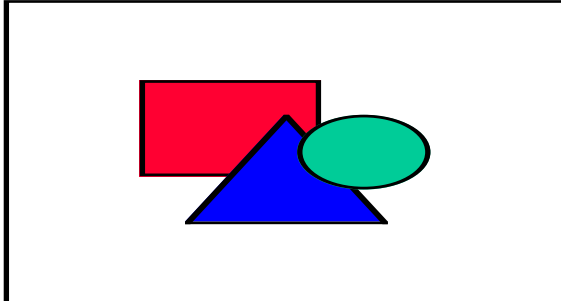


music on a regular basis and the children are loving it. Sarah Weston's son Matthew played his guitar to the children last week and before Christmas my daughter Joanna brought in her drum kit and entertained everyone

-Children in all the rooms had a bash and the noise didn't seem to bother them at all!



The Website



The Halesowen Day Nursery website is now up and running, and I will endeavour to keep it as up to date and relevant as possible. Please have a look through it -there are some really lovely pictures of your children and even some of you.

This newsletter is now on the site, so if you loose it, and need any reminders, you only have to click on www.halesowendaynursery.co.uk

I would really like some more comments from you for our 'Testimonials Page', - have a look to see the sort of thing I need. Just a few lines will be fine, describing what you think of the service we provide, possibly pointing out one or two things you are particularly happy about. The easiest way to do this is to email me at alice@halesowendaynursery.co.uk, or to hand-write something that can be scanned onto the site.

I also NEED your feedback about the site in general. You can speak to me or email me, whichever you prefer, but either way, I would really appreciate your comments or suggestions -I have never done this sort of thing before.

Thank You.

Easter Celebrations

2004 ALL AGES.

Thurs April 8thth

- **Easter Egg Hunt** - throughout the day

The children will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt around the play area. Children will be involved in searching and finding chocolate eggs - to be taken home at the end of the day. The smaller children will obviously be given plenty of help to find the eggs!!

▪ **Easter Bonnet Parade** - 4pm

We would like to involve as many children as possible in our Easter Bonnet Parade. Bonnets need not be over extravagant, but simple and colourful. Staff will try to help you with ideas and may be able to provide suitable materials.

There will not be a winning bonnet, but all entrants will receive a prize.

We hope you can fully enter into the spirit of the occasion and we look forward to admiring your Easter creations!

Topic Work

Kindergarten and Pre-school

2-3's Kindergarten

To begin this new year, the children in the kindergarten are enjoying many appropriate activities observing '*Colour and Shape in our World*'.

The children are constantly involved in different themes and topics that are relevant to them as well as to the time of year. Children always bring a wealth of experience and interest from home and love to share. The staff 'tune-in' to what the children are saying and try to develop the activities in line with their interests. Sarah will ensure that the themes to be covered are displayed on the notice board for you to read. If you can contribute in any way please let us know. The children love little talks and demonstrations and all new ideas are very welcome.

3-4's Pre-school

Again the themes being covered in the pre-school originate from the interests of the children and for this reason activities are initiated by the staff and then planned week by week.

Alongside the themes, we concentrate on a particular curriculum focus that lasts for around two months. The curriculum focus will be one of any of the six areas of learning..

The curriculum focus at the moment is **Mathematics** around the current theme of '**Number Stories and Rhymes**'. We have started with the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and the children absolutely love it. They are very interested in the movement of butterflies, colours and patterns of butterflies, retelling and acting-out the story. This theme of will last for as long as the children maintain an interest and when it comes to it's natural end the theme will be changed.

Again please keep your eye on the notice board at the entrance to the kindergarten and pre-school to find out all about the exciting things we are all doing!

Toddlers and Babies

A Learning Environment

The toddlers and babies continue to enjoy the full range of exciting creative activities such as Treasure baskets, Free-painting, Music, Pretend play and Cardboard boxes, all enabling children to make the connections necessary to become competent learners.

A Healthy Environment

Our Meals Menu has been made even healthier for small babies as more fresh fruit has been added and babies are given baby biscuits, yoghurt and rusks at snack time.

Key Carers

As you are already aware, we follow a **key-carer system** at Halesowen Day Nursery. This system is really about the child and adult forming close relationships and providing continuity of care for the children. **Good quality care** depends on this relationship and the key carer is also responsible for ensuring that all information is communicated to parents regarding the child. The relationship between child and key carer should enhance and complement the relationship a child has with his/her parents. By understanding what is familiar to the children in their home environment, a child's key carer can build on experiences and develop interests that are specific to the particular child, so if you are able to share any information about what your

child loves to do or play at home, please let us know, so that we can further enhance your child's time with us.

Following extensive research into the development of children in their very early years, new guidance has been published entitled '**Birth to Three Matters**'. We received this guidance just before Christmas and will be addressing it very carefully over the coming months. There are four distinct aspects of the child's development that need to be addressed

with equal importance. 1. **The Strong Child** - gaining self-assurance, and feeling valued and loved. 2. **A Skilful Communicator** - speaking listening and responding, and making meaning. 3. **A Competent Learner** - making connections, and being creative and imaginative. 4. **A Healthy Child** - growing and physical development, emotional well-being, and keeping safe and healthy.

This term we will be looking even more closely at our provision of the under 3's and redesigning our development records to reflect the guidance. If you would like to look through the guidance yourself, it can be found on the surestart website:

<http://www.surestart.gov.uk/ensuringquality/birthtothreematters>



'MUSIC TOTS'

continues to be a great success both with the Tots and Pre-school children, and the 10 dates for the Wednesday sessions this term will be:

January: 14th, 21st, 28th

February: 4th, 11th, 25th,

March: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th,

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

Please pay CASH ONLY in advance where possible if you haven't already.

REMINDERS

Working Families Tax Credit

Even if you have applied for this in the past, it may be well worth another try. Simply ring the WFTC help-line on

0845 609 5000 or look on the website
www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk - You may
 be pleasantly surprised!

Changes in Personal Details

Thank you to all those who have returned their changes in details form. It is vital that we always have accurate contact details on our records.

If you can only be contacted on a mobile number that your mobile phones are always kept switched on.

If you haven't returned the form yet then please do so as soon as possible. Thank You

DEVELOPMENT RECORDS

A reminder to parents of children in **ALL ROOMS** to return any outstanding development records to their child's carer as soon as possible. It is important that we retain a copy of each record that has been signed/ commented on by you. Thank you.

**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.

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



Your Children's

Health

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

2004 Closure Dates

Good Friday : **Friday 9th
 April**

Easter Monday: **Monday 12th
 April**

May Day : **Monday 3rd
 May**

Spring Bank Holiday: **Monday
 31st May**

Summer Bank Holiday:
Monday 30th Aug

CHRISTMAS 2004

Nursery will close on

Friday 24th December 2004

and will reopen on

Tuesday 4th January 2005

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in the past year and to wish you all a very happy 2004!

Alice, Heidi and ALL staff