

# *A Wonderful Christmas to Everyone*

2000

*Dear Parents and Friends of Cowgate,*

*At this time of year we are filled with lots of lovely excitement, but as teachers of young children we are also reminded of virtues such as caring, compassion, humility, justice, kindness, love, respect, tolerance, trust and unity to name a few...simple ways to bring out the best in our children and ourselves. We would like to begin this newsletter with some virtues if we may...then we have included details of the nativity; our Christmas outing; thanks to you all; celebrating Hanukkah; parents forum; parents web forum and a request for email addresses; care commission thanks and important dates. The background photograph of this newsletter is of a robin...taken by the wonderful Jane at Forest School. The robin came so near to the children...they loved such a close look at this beautiful creature....virtues...*

*Caring makes the world a better place to live in as we give love and attention to people and things that matter to us. Showing we care by saying and doing things that help them. We will spend some time speaking to the children about Kadi, our sponsored child in Niger, who needs all of us to care (thank you to Teresa for your time, kindness and consideration with this important aspect of Cowgate)*

*At this time we remind the children of our pets, who will need very caring children to watch over them and take care of them over the holiday period.*

*At this time we would like to express our thanks to the children and their families who have taken Harry home for the weekend. Alba has*

*offered to take Harry home soon. Anybody wishing to take any of the pets home over the holiday period please let us know.*

Compassion *At this time of year we are reminded of compassion, understanding and caring about people who are in trouble...we will look out for someone who is hurting or needs a friend.*

Humility. *We will give to others, what we have to give...for the sake of giving. Humility helps us learn from our mistakes, acknowledging we all make them! Humility helps us treat others as equals, we are all different, but we are all equal. Humility lets us learn from others. It keeps us free from prejudice and from judging others.*

Justice. *Practicing justice is being fair in everything we do. The children have written new values, (please see a copy displayed in the vestibule). Within these values the children illustrate how they believe in being just, treating each person and an individual. Please take a moment to read these...we need to all live by these in the centre. Copies are available on request.*

Kindness *At this time of year we are reminded of the small gesture's that brighten people's lives. Being kind allows us to feel the connectedness we have with all other things. Being kind makes things better for every one of us...*

Love *ahhh love...love is special; it fills your heart, at the Nativity Play we will see lots of 'heart filling' 😊*

Respect *is an attitude of honouring people and caring about their rights. We teach the children that being respectful is reflected in the courtesy with which we treat one another, the way we speak, and the way we treat the centre environment.*

Tolerance As I move along Princes Street at the moment, I remind myself of the importance of tolerance. Tolerance in accepting that I cannot change the pushing shoppers, or, sometimes not so patient sales people...tolerance in accepting this with good grace. I could always choose not to shop! 😊

Trust When I think of trust, initially, I think of the staff team. I think of how much I trust them to do the right thing. They are such a wonderful group of people, so caring, so talented. A pleasure to lead. The children trust them so much and I know the parents trust them too. Trusting others is believing that people will do what they say without having to get them to do it. I trust each and every one of them what a marvellous team 😊

Unity As a Froebelian setting we could not leave unity...unity is a very powerful virtue, and it brings great strength. When you practice unity, you allow yourself to feel connected to everything and everyone.

Unity brings harmony...with unity you can strive for harmony with everyone around you and everyone in the world. Unity is a force so powerful it can light up the world and bring an end to war. With unity we can all be peacemakers...wherever we go 😊

Nativity Play Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Whoops-a-Daisy-Angel

Tickets are available for Whoops-a-Daisy-Angel from reception.

If your child does not attend on a Monday morning, you are welcome to buy tickets, and bring your child to the City Chambers, have them join us for the show, and take them home after the show. All the children have been involved in the preparation and of course the singing. Hope to see you there!

*Do you know, our wonderful Eva, drew the picture on the tickets and front cover of the songbook. She drew a picture to remind her of the words...how magnificent is that! We have entered Eva's drawing for the City of Edinburgh Christmas card competition!*

### Christmas Outing

*Last years Christmas Outing was such a success that we are going to Winter Wonderland again this year. There are so many wonderful things to do and see...and when we return...Santa Claus will be here from 2pm...did you know he is visiting Willow Cottage this year?*

### Thanks to You

- *Kids for kilts day...Kilts for kids day was such a wonderful success. Thank you for dressing your children in their kilts...Lennox just loved 'swishing' his ☺ Thank you to Alan, who came in to talk to the children all about 'kilts'. Thanks to your generosity we raised £82.88 for Children 1<sup>st</sup>!*
- *Children in Need...by selling baking made by the children we raised £24.05. Well done everyone!*

### Hanukkah

*This week we celebrated Hanukkah with Indie and his mummy. This is a Jewish Festival of Lights, and Natasha read us a story all about it.*

*We saw their Menorah, which has eight candles, and one to light the others with.*

*We tried to spin the dreidel, which was a tricky game, and Indie brought some special Hanukkah sweets for everyone to share.*

*Indie sang us a Hanukkah song too.*

*Thank you Indie and Natasha, and Happy Hanukkah!*



### Parents Forum

*Our parent's forum has had its first meeting. Scott is the staff member facilitating the meeting. Suzy (Burnett) attended this new beginning. Scott and Suzy are hoping to organise a second meeting in January...date t.b.c, everyone welcome ☺ this is another opportunity for you to be involved in the life of the centre. Hope to see you.*

### Newly updated parents web forum

*We have given our parents web forum a new look. Log onto the website and register. This will be another opportunity for you to communicate with one another and...participate in the life of the centre.*

### Email addresses

*Communicating via email is quick and easy. If you would like us to communicate with you and you with us through email please give Hazel your email address.*

### Care Commission

*Thank you to everyone who completed a care commission inspection return. An inspection will now take place any time.*

*HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD  
WITH YOUR FAMILY...with love always Lynn and the Cowgate  
team ☺*

*Dates to remember*

*The centre is closed on Christmas Eve at 1pm. We re-open on Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> December 2009.*

*We are closed on New Years Day and re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
2010.*